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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Shigeto HIRAGA et al.
Application No.:	10/602,621
Filed:	June 25, 2003
For:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING A DATABASE AND PROCESSING PROGRAM THEREFOR
Group:	2182
Examiner:	H. Kim

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents   June 24, 2005
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Decision on Petition dated May 12, 2005, reconsideration

and withdrawal of the Decision is respectfully requested in view of the following

remarks.

REMARKS

Initially, in the Decision on Petition dated May 12, 2005, the Examiner asserts that the Petition to Make Special filed March 24, 2005 is defective for failing to provide a detailed discussion of how the language of each of the independent claims is specifically distinguishable and patentable from each of the references.

It is submitted that the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed. In particular, the cited references, at a minimum, fail to disclose or suggest in combination with the other limitations recited in the claims:

a first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 wherein if said access attribute information is an insert-only attribute, authorizing data insertion and access to data in said database; specifying at least an attribute of data update prohibition to said database; and disabling change of said attribute after said attribute is specified;

a second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 wherein for, if said database definition request is a first specification of an insert-only attribute, authorizing data-insertion and data access in said database and specifying at least a data update prohibition attribute to said database; and

a third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9 if said access attribute information includes an insert-only attribute, authorizing data insertion and data access in said database and specifying at least data update

prohibition attribute to said database; and disabling change of said attribute after said attribute is specified.

To the extent applicable to the present Petition, Applicants submit that although the distinguishing feature(s) may represent a substantial portion of the claimed invention, the claimed invention including said feature(s) and their inter-operation provides a novel storage system and system and method related to or implemented in or by said storage system not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

The references considered most closely related to the claimed invention are briefly discussed below:

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0059734 A1 (Smith et al.) discloses in one embodiment, a method is provided. The method of this embodiment may include determining by circuitry at a first node, in response, at least in part, to a first message received at the first node, whether to grant a second node access to data accessible by a third node. This first message may include, at least in part, a request that the second node be granted the access to the data. If the circuitry determines to grant the access to the data, the method of this embodiment may also include generating at and issuing from the circuitry a second message indicating, at least in part, that the access has been granted to the second node, and modifying by the circuitry information accessible by the circuitry to indicate that the access has been granted to the second node. However, unlike the present invention, Smith et al. does not disclose or suggest the above described first feature of the present

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invention as recited in independent claim 1, the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 and the above described third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0250098 A1 (Licis) discloses a security scheme method and system for authorizing users to access and read data within a table, while only being able to modify selected data rows based on the user's authorities set by a composite of authorities within security tables of the system. Therein, a user of the invention is allowed to retrieve any data from a table while the security scheme limits that data the user is allowed to modify by setting the limit rules within these security tables. These limit rules may simultaneously monitor a plurality of field names existing within selected tables. The security scheme also enables the security tables to automatically open and close access to tables or quads by the security scheme setting flags before, during, after, or combinations thereof, the running of a session for loading tables. However, unlike the present invention, Licis does not disclose or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 and the above described third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0139116 A1 (Porter) discloses in one embodiment, a method of providing data entities of a database with a time

dependent value for an attribute of the entity is disclosed. The method in that embodiment comprises: (i) having values of attributes of said entities in said database; (ii) for said entities providing a valid time start time associated with each said value of said attribute; (iii) for said entities providing a valid time end time associated with each said value of said attributes; (iv) for said entities providing a transaction time associated with said valid time start time and said valid time end time for each said value; whereby (v) when querying said database an appropriate said transaction time is used so as to ensure that an appropriate value for said attribute is used and that appropriate valid time start and end times are used. However, unlike the present invention, Porter does not disclose or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 and the above described third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

U.S. Patent No. 6,397,228 (Lamburt et al.) discloses a system for performing online data queries. The system for performing online data queries is a distributed computer system with a plurality of server nodes each fully redundant and capable of processing a user query request. Each server node includes a data query cache and other caches that may be used in performing data queries. The data query, as well as request allocation, is performed in accordance with an adaptive partitioning technique with a bias towards an initial partitioning scheme. Generic objects are

created and used to represent business listings upon which the user may perform queries. Various data processing and integration techniques are included which enhance data queries. An update technique is used for synchronizing data updates as needed in updating the plurality of server nodes. A multi-media data transfer technique is used to transfer non-text or multi-media data between various components of the online query tool. Optimizations for searching, such as the common term optimization, are included for those commonly performed data queries. Also disclosed is a system for targeting advertisements that are displayed to a user of the system. However, unlike the present invention, Lamburt et al. does not disclose or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 and the above described third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims.

Therefore, since the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the above described first feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, the above described second feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 8 and the above described third feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 9, in combination with the other limitations recited in each of the independent claims, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that this Petition to Make Special be granted and that the application undergo the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02 VIII.

Respectfully submitted,

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